

Wabash Plain Dealer

\$3

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Tomorrow's weather

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WEDNESDAY,
JULY 14, 2021



Pulse of Wabash

Notice to readers

To reduce risks to our employees and community, the Wabash Plain Dealer is closed to the public until further notice. Payments may be mailed to Wabash Plain Dealer, P.O. Box 309, Marion, IN 46952, or called in. For news, call 260-225-4662 or email news@wabashplaindealer.com. For advertising, call 260-225-4947 or email vwilliams@h-ponline.com. For circulation and customer support, call 260-563-2131. The Wabash Plain Dealer is committed to providing the best product to its customers and appreciates the support during this time. For more local news content, please visit wabashplaindealer.com where you will find all of the news that could not fit into today's edition. Get your news faster by activating your online account which is included in your print subscription rates. Our stories appear online in an easy-to-read format as they are completed. Thank you for your support through this pandemic.

Public prayer times set for Wednesday

The National Day of Prayer Committee for Wabash is asking you to join us to pray for our nation at 7:14 a.m. and also at 7:14 p.m. Wednesday, July 14 at the large pavilion in the Wabash City Park.

Imagine One 85 Growth Summit set for Wednesday

The Imagine One 85 Growth Summit will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 14 on the Honeywell Plaza and include food and entertainment highlighting the best of Wabash County. Attendance is free and registration is available by visiting www.imagineone85.org.

Salamonie Preschool offers 'D is for Decomposition'

Preschool-age children

See PULSE, page A8

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Wabash County Fair 60th Queen Pageant set for Wednesday

Miss Indiana State Fair 2021 Claudia Duncan will be in attendance

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

The 60th Wabash County Fair Queen Pageant will be held on Wednesday.

Doors will open at 6:15 p.m. and the pageant will begin at 7 p.m. in Ford Theater of the Honeywell Center, 275 W. Market St., said Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center public relations and communications intern Becca Foerder. The pageant will be live-streamed on the Wabash County Fair Queen Contest Facebook Page and also on WebTV.

In addition to the contestants, Foerder said there would be a special guest in attendance.

"Miss Indiana State Fair Claudia Duncan will attend both the pageant and the formal dinner," said Foerder.

Foerder said Duncan would be there from approximately 5 to 9:30 p.m.

Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center director of communications Sharon Smith said Duncan is the 62nd woman to be crowned Miss Indiana State Fair and is traveling to approximately 35 counties to promote the upcoming Indiana State Fair, which has been scheduled from July 30 to Aug. 22.

Duncan is from Evansville graduated as valedictorian of Mater Dei High School and currently attends Purdue University

majoring in data science with a minor in computer technology. Duncan is the fourth representative from Vanderburgh County to be crowned Miss Indiana State Fair following Karen Kosester in 1974, Tate Fritchley in 2016 and Becka Lax in 2017.

Duncan is a 10-Year 4-H Member and recipient of the Tenure Award. She began playing piano at age four and has competed in the Indiana State Fair Talent Contest twice. Claudia served as a LifeGuide, or religious educator, at St. Thomas Aquinas and as a mentor for first-year hon-



Provided photo
Miss Indiana State Fair Claudia Duncan will attend both the pageant and the formal dinner.

ors and science students. Claudia's hobbies include running and creating do-it-yourself projects.

In July 2020, Alyssa McKillip was named Miss Wabash County 2020 at the Wabash County 4-H Fair Queen Pageant.

McKillip is attending Butler University, studying biology with a focus on pre-medicine. She is a 10-year 4-H member with success in swine, seasonal decorations, crops, tractor maintenance and gardening. She said her favorite 4-H memory in the swine

arena was showing in the Indiana Farmers' Coliseum for the Supreme Drive at the Indiana State Fair.

In addition to McKillip, her court last year included Miss Congeniality Torina Runkel; Third Runner Up Ashlyn Rody; Second Runner Up Elise Gottschalk; and First Runner Up Haylie

Miller.

In addition to those five, 21 other contestants

competed in last year's pageant including Kenzie Baer, Maddie Clark, Braylen Fleck, Kayla Hippensteel, Kyra Kennedy, Jenna Krom, Ashley Lyons, Morgan Meyer, Chloe Miller, Anna Pyle, Emma Pyle,

Rebekah Pyle, Trista Roser, McKenzie Roth, Faye Satterthwaite, Abby Schuler, Madison Shrider, Amelia Sweet, Hally Sweet, Erika Yard and Karrigan Yard.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

Photo by Rob Burgess / Plain Dealer

On Wednesday evening, July 8, 2020, on the Ford Theater stage at the Honeywell Center, Alyssa McKillip was named Miss Wabash County 2020 at the Wabash County 4-H Fair Queen Pageant.

As with any marketing strategy the previous 'Slow Down' campaign has expired and was updated to the new 'Your Adventure Awaits,'" said Flohr.

Millspaugh said nearly 15,000 vehicles travel the Indiana 13 and Indiana 15 corridor every day,

"Welcoming vehicular traffic from the north and the south into Wabash,

city of Wabash have been installed, said marketing manager Whitney Millspaugh on Monday.

The gateway billboard project is a partnership with the city of Wabash and Visit Wabash County "as part of an extensive marketing plan to engage visitors and residents alike," said Millspaugh.

On Tuesday, Visit Wabash County executive director, Christine Flohr said the gateway program is integrated within Visit Wabash

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Salamonie Preschool offers ‘S is for Snake’ on Aug. 11

Children ages 2 to 5 and their adults are welcome to attend

STAFF REPORT

Preschool-age children and their adults are invited to Salamonie Preschool’s “S is for Snake,” according to interpretive naturalist Teresa Rody.

“Learn about and meet some snakes,” said Rody.

Children ages 2 to 5 and their adults are welcome to attend the class from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 11 at Salamonie Interpretive Center, 3691 S. New Holland Road, Andrews, located in Lost Bridge West State Recreation Area.

“Each program is designed to enhance the preschooler’s basic education, including music, crafts, social interaction and time outdoors, always with a nature-related

theme,” said Rody.

The program fee is \$2 per child. Advance registration is appreciated. Register by calling Upper Wabash Interpretive Services at 260-468-2127.

“Note that details of this event may be subject to change based on the state’s response to COVID-19,” said Rody.

For more information, visit dnr.IN.gov/uwits or facebook.com/upperwabash.

‘Let’s Chat: Habitat’ set for July 28 at Mississinewa Lake

The first meeting location will be provided at the registration

STAFF REPORT

Join the Upper Wabash Invasives Network (UWIN) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) who are co-hosting a workshop on portions of habitats at Mississinewa Lake from 5

to 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 28, according to interpretive naturalist Teresa Rody.

Mississinewa Lake is located at 4673 S. 625 East, Peru, but that will not be the first meeting location. The first meeting location will be provided at registration.

“Learn about wildlife habitat diversity and invasive species management techniques being utilized at Mississinewa Lake that you’ll be able to apply on your prop-

erty,” said Rody. “Dress for the weather and Mother Nature’s surprises. Close-toed shoes are required and long pants are optional. There will be some walking involved. Please note any mobility needs at registration. A light supper will be provided.”

Advance registration is required by calling 260-468-2127 or emailing uwnatdnr@dnr.in.gov.

For more information, visit dnr.IN.gov.

Chanticleer String Quartet to perform at Honeywell House

Music by Gerdel, Vivaldi, Tchaikovsky, Dvorak will be played

STAFF REPORT

The Chanticleer String Quartet featuring Stefan Xhori, Caroline Klempner Green, Jennifer Smith and Elizabeth Mendoza will perform live at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 22 at the Honeywell

House, 720 N. Wabash St., according to Honeywell Arts & Entertainment development communications manager Courtney Harvey.

Guests are invited to enjoy scenic outdoor views on the terrace as they listen to music by Gerdel, Vivaldi, Tchaikovsky and Dvorak.

Founded in 1977, the Chanticleer String Quartet has brought what one critic called “a new dimension of music” to the Midwest. The quartet

reaches thousands of listeners annually through its Summer Music Festival as well as children’s programs throughout the year.

This event is sponsored by Beacon Trust Services. Admission is free and reservations are required. In the event of inclement weather, the program will move indoors.

For more information, visit HoneywellArts.org/honeywell-house or call 260-563-1102.

FBI director: Slain Indiana cop did what ‘needed to be done’

TERRE HAUTE (AP) — A veteran Indiana police officer who was killed in an ambush outside of an FBI field office last week was a valued member of an FBI task force for more than a decade, the agency’s director said at the officer’s funeral Tuesday.

Terre Haute police Detective Greg Ferency worked on investigations ranging from drugs to counterterrorism during his 11 years on the task force, FBI Director Christopher Wray told hundreds of police officers and other mourners at Indiana State University’s Hulman Center basketball arena.

“To his FBI teammates, Greg was ‘the guy,’” Wray said. “He did whatever needed to be done. Never

said no. He always, always had your back.”

Ferency, 53, was killed last Wednesday after a man threw a Molotov cocktail at an FBI office in the city roughly 70 miles west of Indianapolis and then shot the officer as he emerged from the building, authorities said. The 30-year police veteran and an FBI agent both fired on the attacker, wounding him.

Local and federal law enforcement officers from throughout Indiana and other states filed past Ferency’s flag-draped casket as the funeral began. A procession with hundreds of police vehicles passed under a large U.S. flag suspended between two extended fire truck ladders over a city street on its way to a ceme-

tery for Ferency’s burial.

Colleagues recalled Ferency, who was the father of 18-year-old twins, as a gregarious friend and an eager mentor for younger officers.

Police Chief Shawn Keen said he first met Ferency because they lived across the street from one another, and that after he joined the department, Ferency helped him out as a young detective “more times than I can count.”

“He also never treated me like I was stupid, even when I was,” Keen said.

The suspected gunman, 44-year-old Shane Meehan, is charged with premeditated murder of a federal agent. Investigators haven’t disclosed a possible motive for the attack.

IT'S TIME FOR THE Arc of Wabash County's

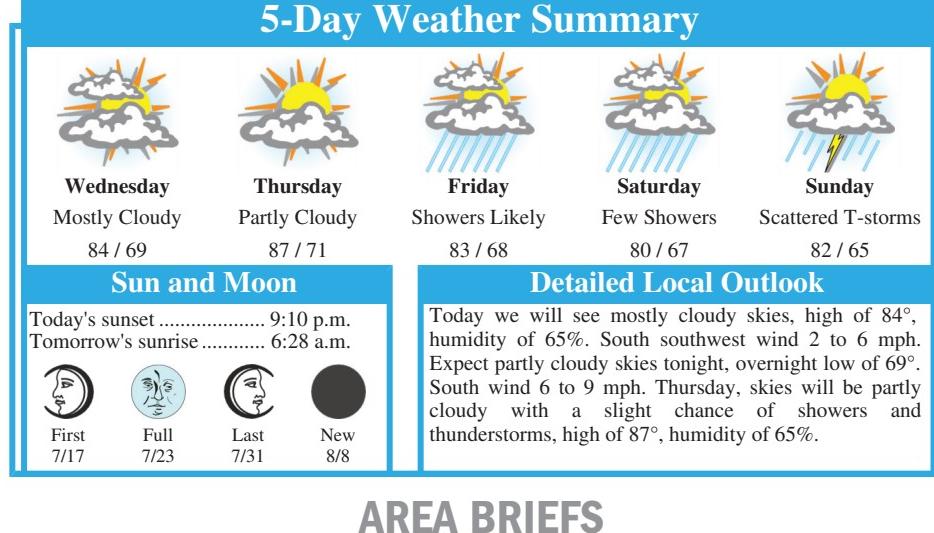
Rummage Sale

July 15th and 16th

9:00AM-5:00PM



All proceeds benefit Wabash County residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



AREA BRIEFS

Maria Osborne, of North Manchester, graduates from Shenandoah University

Maria Osborne is one of more than 1,200 students to celebrate their graduation in May during two days of commencement ceremonies at Shenandoah University, according to a press release.

Students either graduated in May 2021, December 2020 or August 2020.

Wabash VFW Post No. 286 to hold smelt fry on Friday

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post No. 286 in Wabash will host a smelt fry from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, July 16 at 3678 W Old 24, according to Dan Ford.

The menu will include breaded smelt, French fries, a choice of pasta salad or cole-slaw and hush puppies.

The cost is \$9 per person. The event will be open to the public. Carryout will

be available. For more information, call 260-563-2463.

Mrs. Honeywell to be commemorated at Annual Birthday Tea

The public is invited to commemorate Mrs. Honeywell’s birthday with a low tea luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, July 29 at the Honeywell House, 720 N. Wabash St., according to Honeywell Arts & Entertainment development communications manager Courtney Harvey.

The Francis Shoppe will present a fashion show featuring the latest styles as guests enjoy a selection of finger sandwiches, pastries, breads and sweets on the scenic outdoor terrace. In the event of inclement weather, the program will move indoors.

The cost of the luncheon is \$25 per person and reservations are required.

For more information, visit HoneywellArts.org/honeywell-house or call 260-563-1102.

SCHOOL

From page A1

Indiana (FAI) is part of a network of private online schools provided through Faith Academics and powered by Stride K12. FAI received accreditation this past month by the Indiana Board of Education (IBOE).

Wottring said Victory Christian Fellowship approved using their facility as a North Manchester satellite school location. Tuition is \$6,250 for elementary students and \$7,250 for middle and high schoolers. As an accredited school, students can qualify for Indiana Choice Scholarships, which cover up to 90 percent of the student’s tuition for families earning 300 percent or less of the reduced lunch eligibility.

Wottring said FAI offers both a college dual enrollment and career readiness program.

“For less than \$5,000 a student can earn an associate degree through dual credit classes at several schools, including Indiana Wesleyan University, valued between \$50,000 and \$60,000,” said Wottring.

Wottring said Mark Eastway will be spearheading the school’s site in North Manchester. On Tuesday, Eastway said “some people, like myself, want our children to have a Christian education.”

“We believe it is of eternal value,” said Eastway. “It took Jesus over three years of spending time with his followers until they were fully discipled. This is an extremely high bar to reach, and a Christian school is one of the few approaches that meet that standard.”

Eastway said the 2020 Supreme Court decision in R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Homes Inc. v. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which found that



Provided photo

Columbus Christian School superintendent Kendall Wildey will be meeting with parents and their children at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, July 18 at Victory Christian Fellowship, 112 W. Main St., North Manchester

Title VII protects transgender people from employment discrimination, weighed on many parents’ decisions.

“Jesus strongly emphasized moral purity, including strongly teaching against lust. The nonruling by the Supreme Court now makes it legal for biological boys to go into a girl’s restroom and locker room and vice versa, placing people who live by his teaching in a compromising situation,” said Eastway.

Eastway said he and others were concerned about what they define as “critical race theory” in addition to other curriculum items.

“Many folks believe it conflicts with Martin Luther King’s teaching on judging people by the content of their character and not the color of their skin,” said Eastway. “Many folks believe the world, including our bodies, are far too complex to be a result of random chance, yet teaching the possibility of intelligent design is not allowed in our schools. Freedom of speech should include religious speech, yet there are many restrictions on what adults can say in a classroom setting.”

For more information, email markeastway@gmail.com or nikkiwottring@victorynm.org, call 260-982-8657 or visit www.faithprep.com or www.victorynm.org/faithprep.

Eastway said with this new school they would seek to provide “a solid education, but also with a Christian worldview.”

“FaithPrep provides opportunities, on a variety of levels, to interact with other students,” said Eastway.

Eastway said up until now, attending a Christian school was financially out of reach for most families.

“Now it has become affordable, with Indiana Choice Scholarships available to families making up to three times the school lunch program limits,” said Eastway. “Earning an associate degree at a Christian university, such as Indiana Wesleyan University, while earning a diploma is very appealing to parents who wish to send their children to a Christian university and are on a tight budget.”

Eastway said the individual class teachers will be online, but there will be many in-class, blended learning opportunities at the North Manchester site.

“The teachers will be online. Directors of the school will be available for individualized tutoring and group lessons,” said Eastway. “Many parents are concerned that their children will not be able to participate in school sports. Presently, students who take a few classes at a public school, while taking classes at FaithPrep, will be eligible for school sports. Additionally, public schools are required by law to provide transportation to an accredited school in their school district.”

For more information, email markeastway@gmail.com or nikkiwottring@victorynm.org, call 260-982-8657 or visit www.faithprep.com or www.victorynm.org/faithprep.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rbburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

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Obituaries

Priest's arrest part of a larger problem

As I write, a Franciscan priest I know is in a courtroom in Ohio. Father Fidelis Moscinski was charged with criminal trespass for walking into an abortion facility in Cuyahoga Falls.

Kathryn Lopez

 It's called a Red Rose Rescue: He goes inside, offers women roses, and when asked to leave, says he's happy to – once the doctor performing abortions does. In other words, once the abortions stop. So the police wind up getting involved.

The pain of abortion can be a miserable cross to bear, not just for a woman but for all in her life. Death creates distance, especially when it's a death that we pretend isn't really death. We know better. We can see.

Former NFL player Benjamin Watson and his wife, Kirsten, are executive producers of a recent documen-

tary called "Divided Hearts of America." In it, they try to find out how we got to this place. The Watsons got more involved in pro-life advocacy after the experience of having their first child – and seeing that developing baby in ultrasounds.

It's hard not to see a child as a gift, especially when the child is the fruit of love. That's part of our problem: We don't seem to know what love is anymore. I fear that so many have no idea what love really is – especially the young.

Love involves not mere pleasure, but reverence and sacrifice. Love draws you out of yourself to care for another.

When the #MeToo movement came around, what an opportunity it could have been – could still be – to appreciate the cruel extent of sexual abuse in our country. Human beings suffer, and if we were open and honest about that, we might have a shot at understanding one another.

That's what the Watsons do

in the documentary: Listen. Ask questions. And not antagonistic ones, like the one I recently got from a man in my neighborhood: "You want God to strike down all the LGBT people?" My goodness, no. I can't speak for everyone who stands outside an abortion clinic praying or offering counsel, but all I want to do is offer hope for someone looking for a sign. Sometimes that's all the person wants. Sometimes she feels like the abortion is expected; sometimes she just needs someone to listen.

We need to love one another better. Our politics will never get better until we do. We look for political solutions for problems of the human heart, and that's just never going to work. That's why we're so divided. That's why there is such anger and violence. We don't value life and love like we ought. We don't see precious human life in one another, and we certainly can't bring ourselves to love those who disagree with us.

These outbursts we see,

which become tyrannical ideologies clung to with religious fervor, are really cries for help from a country that can do better. And it starts in recognizing our universal humanity – yes, even the unborn, and the scared mother who deserves better than walking into an abortion clinic, or receiving pills by mail to end her pregnancy. We're never going to have any kind of healing in our land until we talk with one another differently about abortion.

When Father Fidelis walks into a clinic with roses, he's trying to help us see. These are women who deserve to be loved so they can love their children. They are already mothers. Let's stop lying about that.

Kathryn Jean Lopez is senior fellow at the National Review Institute, editor-at-large of National Review magazine and author of the new book "A Year With the Mystics: Visionary Wisdom for Daily Living." She is also chair of Cardinal Dolan's pro-life commission in New York. She can be contacted at klopez@nationalreview.com.

Jeanne Runkel

June 19, 1929 – July 12, 2021

Jeanne Runkel died July 12, 2021. She was born on June 19, 1929 in North Manchester.

Jeanne is survived by daughters, Vicki (Tom) Niccum, Dianne (Richard Jr.) Fox, and Debi (Steve) Vawter; grandchildren, Chad (Rena) Vawter, Joshua (Carla) Niccum, Erin (Brian) Lang, Michael (Ashley) Fox, and Zach (Katie) Vawter; fifteen great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren.



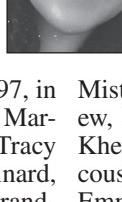
at North Manchester Missionary Church, 806 S.R. 114, North Manchester, with calling at 9:30.

Arrangements are entrusted to McKee Mortuary.

Makahla Nicole Wilson

May 1, 1997 – July 9, 2021

Makahla Nicole Wilson, 24, of rural Wabash, Indiana, died 12:09 pm, Friday, July 9, 2021, at a friend's home in Huntington, Indiana. She was born on May 1, 1997, in Anderson, Indiana, to Marvin Lewis Scott and Tracy Nicole (Wilson) Brainard, and was raised by her grandparents, Jerry and Cyndy Wilson.



children.

She is survived by her mother, Tracy Nicole Brainard, sister, Pacia Wilson, grandparents, Jerry and Cyndy Wilson, aunt, Misty (Justin) Adams, nephew, Khyton Hubbard, niece, Kheylynn Hubbard, and cousins, Kamrin Adams and Emma Adams, all of Wabash, and her father Marvin Lewis Scott of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Services will be private. Arrangements by Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash.

The memorial guest book for Makahla may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

William Wayne 'Bill' Unger

William Wayne "Bill" Unger, 76, of Wabash, Indiana and a legend of Spider Lake, Michigan, took his final ski ride at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 11, 2021.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 17, 2021 at St. Bernard Catholic Church, 207

North Cass Street, Wabash, Indiana 46992

Visitation will be from 2 to 7 p.m. on Friday, July 16, 2021 at McDonald Funeral Homes, 231 Falls Avenue, Wabash, Indiana 46992.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.mcdonaldfunerals.com.

Kelly Jackson

Services for Kelly Jackson are 2 pm, Friday, July 16, 2021, at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash, with Pastor J.P. Freeman officiating. Burial in Oaklawn Cemetery, North Manchester. Visitation 1-2 pm Friday, at the funeral home.

Black female WWII unit hoping to get congressional honor

By MICHAEL CASEY

Associated Press

BOSTON — Maj. Fannie Griffin McClendon and her Army colleagues never dwelled on being the only Black battalion of women to serve in Europe during World War II. They had a job to do.

The 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion was credited with solving a growing mail crisis during its stint in England and, upon their return, serving as a role model to generations of Black women who joined the military.

But for decades, the exploits of the 855 members never got wider recognition – until now.

The Senate passed legislation that would award members of the battalion, affec-

tionately known as the Six Triple Eight, with the Congressional Gold Medal.

The bill is awaiting action in the House, but is already too late for most 6888 members. There are believed to be only seven surviving, including McClendon.

"Well, it would be nice but it never occurred to me that we would even qualify for it," McClendon said from her home in Tempe, Arizona. "I just wish there were more people to, if it comes through, there were more people to celebrate it," said McClendon, who has met with her local congressman to press for passage of the bill.

The 6888th was sent overseas in 1945, a time when there was growing pressure from African-American organizations to include Black

women in what was called the Women's Army Corps and allow them to join their white counterparts overseas.

"I think that the 6888th, the command inherently knew that their presence overseas meant more than clearing that mail backlog," said Retired Army Col. Edna Cummings, who was not a member of the 6888th but has been advocating to get them greater recognition. "They were representing opportunity for their sisters at arms back in the United States who were having a hard time dealing with the racism and sexism within the ranks."

The unit dodged German U-boats on their way to England and scrambled to escape a German rocket once they reached a Glasgow port. They were deployed to unheated, rat-infested airplane

hangars in Birmingham, England, and given a daunting mission: Process the millions of pieces of undelivered mail for troops, government workers and Red Cross workers. The mountains of mail had piled up and troops were grumbling about lost letters and delayed care packages. Thus their motto, "No Mail, Low Morale."

"They kept hollering about wanting us to go overseas so I guess they found something for us to do overseas: Take care of the mail," McClendon said. "And there was an awful lot of mail. ... They expected we were gonna be there about two or three months trying to get it straightened out. Well I think in about a month, in a month and a half, we had it all straightened out and going in the right direction."

U.S. COVID-19 cases rising again, doubling over three weeks

By HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH and JOSH FUNK

Associated Press

The COVID-19 curve in the U.S. is rising again after months of decline, with the number of new cases per day doubling over the past three weeks, driven by the fast-spreading delta variant, lagging vaccination rates and Fourth of July gatherings.

Confirmed infections climbed to an average of about 23,600 a day on Monday, up from 11,300 on June 23, according to Johns Hopkins University data. And all but two states – Maine and South Dakota – reported that case numbers have gone up over the past two weeks.

"It is certainly no coincidence that we are looking at exactly the time that we would expect cases to be occurring after the July Fourth weekend," said Dr. Bill Powderly, co-director of the infectious-disease division at Washington University's School of Medicine in St. Louis.

At the same time, parts of the country are running up against deep vaccine resistance, while the highly contagious mutant version of the coronavirus that was first detected in India is accounting for an ever-larger share of infections.

Nationally, 55.6 percent of all Americans have received at least one COVID-19 shot, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The five states with the biggest two-week jump in cases per capita all had lower vaccination rates: Missouri, 45.9 percent; Arkansas, 43 percent; Nevada, 50.9 percent; Louisiana, 39.2 percent; and Utah, 49.5 percent.

Even with the latest surge, cases in the U.S. are nowhere near their peak of a quarter-million per day in January. And deaths are running at under 260 per day on average after topping out at more than 3,400 over the winter – a testament to how effectively the vaccine can prevent serious illness and death in those who happen to become infected.

Still, amid the rise, health authorities in places such as Los Angeles County and St. Louis are begging even immunized people to resume wearing masks in public. And Chicago officials announced Tuesday that unvaccinated travelers from Missouri and Arkansas must either quarantine for 10 days or have a negative COVID-19 test.

Meanwhile, the Health Department in Mississippi, which ranks dead last nationally for vaccinations, began blocking posts about COVID-19 on its Facebook page because of a "rise of misinformation" about the virus and the vaccine.

Mississippi officials are also recommending that people 65 and older and those with chronic underlying conditions stay away from large indoor gatherings because of a 150 percent rise in hospitalizations over the past three weeks.

But the political will may not be there in many states fatigued by months of restrictions.

In Michigan, Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer is facing a drive to repeal a law that she used to set major restrictions during the early stages of the pandemic.

And Republican Gov. Kay Ivey of Alabama pushed back against the idea that the state might need to reimpose pre-

vaccination measures as vaccinations lag and hospitalizations rise.

"Alabama is OPEN for business. Vaccines are readily available, and I encourage folks to get one. The state of emergency and health orders have expired. We are moving forward," she said on social media.

Dr. James Lawler, a leader of the Global Center for Health Security at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, said bringing back masks and limiting gatherings would help. But he acknowledged that most of the places seeing higher rates of the virus "are exactly the areas of the country that don't want to do any of these things."

Lawler warned that what is happening in Britain is a preview of what's to come in the U.S.

"The descriptions from regions of the world where the delta variant has taken hold and become the predominant virus are pictures of ICUs full of 30-year-olds. That's what the critical care doctors describe and that's what's coming to the U.S.," he said.

He added: "I think people have no clue what's about to hit us."

President Joe Biden is putting a dose of star power behind the administration's efforts to get young people vaccinated. Eighteen-year-old actress, singer and songwriter Olivia Rodrigo will meet with Biden and Dr. Anthony Fauci on Wednesday.

While the administration has had success vaccinating older Americans, young adults have shown less urgency to get the shots.

Thousands of firefighters battle big blazes across the West

By NATHAN HOWARD and JOHN ANTICZAK

Associated Press

destroying more than 20 others, along with other minor structures. The fire's movement prompted authorities to place additional areas under evacuation notice and expand the number of acres ordered closed on an emergency basis inside Fremont-Winema.

Scientists say climate change has made the West much warmer and drier, and they warn that weather will get wilder as the world warms. They say extreme conditions are often from a combination of unusually random, short-term and natural weather patterns heightened by long-term, human-caused climate change. However, special studies are needed to determine how much global warming is to blame, if at all, for a single extreme weather event.

Firefighters have had some success in keeping the Bootleg Fire out of several small communities.

"Quick actions from crews on the ground prevented numerous homes from catching fire during nighttime ember showers," a U.S. Forest Service statement said Monday.

The fire disrupted three transmission lines that provide electricity to California and the state's power grid operator asked for voluntary power conservation Monday.

The California Independent System Operator said Tuesday that the grid was stable and with the

forecast for cooler temperatures another call for conservation was not expected.

In northeastern California, progress was reported on the state's largest fire so far this year. The Beckwourth Complex, a combined pair of lightning-ignited blazes, was almost 50 percent contained after blackening more than 145 square miles near the Nevada state line.

Damage was still being tallied in the rural community of Doyle, where flames swept in during the weekend. Doyle remained under evacuation orders but other areas were on warning status, meaning residents were told to be ready to leave if necessary.

A fire that began Sunday in the Sierra Nevada south of Yosemite National Park grew to nearly 15 square miles but containment increased to 15 percent. Four unspecified buildings were destroyed.

Elsewhere, several wildfires burned in north-central Washington state, prompting an evacuation order for the town of Nezperce and surrounding areas. The state Department of Natural Resources said there were power outages in the area, and phone lines are down, KREM-TV reported.

A 9-mile stretch of Interstate 15 across the corner of northwestern Arizona reopened to traffic Tuesday after a 5 1/2-hour overnight closure due to a brush fire.



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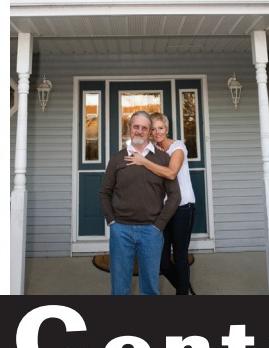
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LEGAL NOTICE PTABOA BOARD MEETING
You are hereby notified that the Wabash County Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals will meet August 4, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. to review exemptions and assessment appeals. The meeting will be held in the Commissioner's room on the 2nd floor of the Courthouse.

Kelly Schenkel

Wabash County Assessor

HSPAXL.07/14/2021

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NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE Sale No. 85-21-0015-SS TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of the Superior Court of Wabash County, Indiana, in Cause No. 85D01-2011-MF-000791, wherein Grant County State Bank was Plaintiff and Lori A. Martin, and Regional Acceptance Corp. were Defendants, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and costs, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the 10th day of August, 2021, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. of said day as listed above, at the Wabash County Sheriff's Office, 79 W. Main Street, Wabash, Indiana, fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Wabash County, Indiana; Lot Number Eleven (11) in Sisson's Addition to the Town of Lafontaine, as recorded on pages 324 and 325 of Plat Book #3, in the Office of the Recorder of Wabash County, Indiana. Commonly known as: 501 S. Main Street, Lafontaine, Indiana 46940 Parcel No.: 85-19-27-404-068.000-006 Together with rents, issues, income and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws. This Notice shall also represent service of Notice of Sale of the above-described real estate upon the owners, pursuant to requirements of IC 32-29-7-3.

/s/ Ryan Baker Ryan Baker, Sheriff of Wabash County, Indiana
/s/ Michael E. Farrer Attorney, Michael E. Farrer/#6784-49 Liberty Township
06/25/2021

The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the commonly known street address. It is the buyer's responsibility to research the legal description and associated legal filings.

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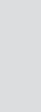
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COUNTY OF WABASH) CAUSE NO. 85D01-2106-MF-000421

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE, FOR THE HOLDERS OF THE CIM TRUST 2021-NR2, MORTGAGE-BACKED NOTES, SERIES 2021-NR2,

Plaintiff,

vs.

THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVISEES OF PATRICIA L. WAKE, DECEASED and THE UNKNOWN TENANT,

Defendants.

NOTICE OF SUIT

The State of Indiana to the Defendant(s) above named, and any other person who may be concerned.

You are hereby notified that you have been sued in the Court above named.

The nature of the suit against you is:

Complaint on Note and to Foreclose Mortgage on Real Estate Against the property commonly known as 1201 N Sycamore St, North Manchester, IN 46962-1154 and described as follows:
THE WEST 1/2 OF LOT 6 AND 7 IN COLLEGE VIEW ADDITION TO THE TOWN OF NORTH MANCHESTER, INDIANA, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF.

This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following named defendant(s): The Unknown Tenant
This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following named defendant(s)

whose whereabouts are unknown: The Unknown Heirs and Devisees of Patricia L. Wake, Deceased

If you have a claim for relief against the plaintiff arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer or response.

You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, within thirty (30) days after the Third Notice of Suit, and if you fail to do so a judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief demanded, by the Plaintiff.

FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C.

By /s/ Matthew S. Love

MATTHEW S. LOVE

Attorney No. 18762-29

Attorney for Plaintiff

MATTHEW S. LOVE

FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C.

8415 Allison Pointe Blvd., Suite 400

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Opinion

SPEAK UP

How to contact your legislators:

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B33 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 1-202-224-5623 <http://young.senate.gov/contact>

U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.
B85 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 202-224-4814 <http://braun.senate.gov/>

U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-District 2
419 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515 202-225-3915

State Sen. Andy Zay, R-District 17
Indiana Senate 200 W. Washington St. Indianapolis, IN 46204 1-800-382-9467 Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov

State Rep. Craig Snow, R-District 18
Indiana House 200 W. Washington St. Indianapolis, IN 46204 1-800-382-9841 h18@in.gov

To email any Indiana lawmaker, go to this website: www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl

LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the news-paper office, 99 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplaindealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.



DAILY SCRIPTURE

I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:13

The U.S. military needs a lot more recruits

The withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan signals the end of a war that involved close to 800,000 American service members. Defending against new threats will require the U.S. to replenish its all-volunteer force with fresh recruits – a task made harder by the dwindling number of Americans willing and able to serve.

The U.S. currently has 1.3 million active-duty service members. Due to attrition and retirement, the military needs to find more than 150,000 new recruits every year to meet its overall "end strength" goal. In 2020, the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines all hit their annual recruitment goals – but those figures were distorted by a historically weak job market, as active-duty service members delayed plans to re-enter the civilian sector, reducing the need for new hires. Last year's target of 61,200 new Army enlistees, for instance, was 20 percent lower than in 2018, when the Army failed to meet its goal.

Recruiting isn't easy. At least 70 percent of Americans between 17 and 24 are ineligible for military service due to obesity, mental-health issues, past drug use, criminal records or lack of a high school degree. Overall, only 13 percent of young adults express a positive propensity to serve, with women about half as likely as men to

consider enlisting. The Defense Department estimates that just 2 percent out of 20.6 million 17- to 21-year-olds have the desired combination of strong academic credentials, adequate physical fitness and an interest in serving.

This limited supply compromises national security. In recent years, the Army has only just barely met the Pentagon's minimum cognitive-aptitude benchmark for new personnel. What's more, recruits tend to be drawn from a shrinking segment of the population – from a small number of mostly southern states and families of veterans, a group whose share of the population is lower than at any time since World War II. The armed forces continue to enjoy public support, but this skewing of the recruiting pool risks widening the divide between service members and the citizens they're sworn to defend.

The U.S. needs to persuade a broader cross section of Americans to consider military service. More generous enlistment bonuses should be offered to candidates who are qualified for critical positions and willing to sign up for six-year contracts. The services should expand outreach beyond recent high-school graduates to community-college and technical-college students, who are more likely to have specialized skills and score higher on aptitude tests. More

recruiters should be stationed in communities with low military participation, and those who bring in high-performing recruits should be rewarded. To attract enlistees from non-traditional backgrounds, a greater share of the Pentagon's \$500 million advertising budget should be spent on social-media campaigns emphasizing the career benefits of joining the military, as a new YouTube series for the Army aims to do.

Boosting recruitment shouldn't come at the expense of military rigor. Relaxing enlistment standards by opening the force to those with histories of truancy or drug use, for instance, would be a mistake. New waivers were granted to Army recruits at the height of the Iraq War; the result was higher attrition and lapses in discipline, and the Pentagon was forced to rethink.

Expanding the pool of qualified recruits, to be sure, isn't a job for the military alone. Addressing childhood obesity, substance abuse and poor academic achievement requires greater investment in the country's K-12 education and public-health systems. Even so, the forces can do a lot on their own account. The effort is critical – not just for the preservation of American power but also for the strength of America's democracy.

This editorial was first published in Bloomberg.

COVID exposes the dire need for child care and paid leave

By VICKI SHABO

When we were testifying last month at a congressional hearing, one of us as a paid leave and gender equity expert and the other as the owner of a small and growing child care center business, we encountered a common and pernicious myth: that American moms could and should choose to stay home to raise their children. If they did, all these pesky problems with paid leave and child care wouldn't even exist.

Yet, as we've so clearly seen this year when millions of parents have interrupted work or left jobs to provide care to children, it's women who have disproportionately taken on the extra load. This was the result of a major crisis and spurred major disruption to families' incomes, housing, food security and more. We hope it will now catalyze public investments in paid leave and child care that were badly needed before the pandemic and essential for rebuilding in its wake.

Some conservatives are advancing a revisionist history of the "good old days" that is not based on today's realities or even those of the past. At the hearing, for instance, Sen. Mitt Romney of Utah waxed nostalgic about his childhood at home with his mother and said Democratic proposals had a "significant bias" toward getting women and men into the workforce. His proposals, however, assume that most families have the same choices his well-off family had. But they don't – because wages are too low, the cost of living is too high and public investments in the middle- and working-class families are too paltry.

Romney's child care plan would do nothing to help parents who work outside their homes or find quality affordable child care, and it would eliminate much-needed food and cash assistance support for low-income families. His paid parental leave plan would require them to trade away some of their future Social Security benefits to pay for the leave – and would provide no relief for the majority of workers who need paid leave to deal with a serious personal or family health issue.

If we truly want to give parents choices, we need to offer options for providing and receiving care while meeting household expenses and saving for emergencies and the future. These needs would be meaningfully addressed with significant investments like those outlined in President Joe Biden's American Families Plan, which would create a national permanent paid family and medical leave program, substantially expand access to high-quality, affordable child care and prekindergarten, and extend the enhanced child tax credit first included in the American Rescue Plan Biden signed in March.

Family challenges are a national as well as an individual economic concern. Before the pandemic, in January 2020, women made up more than half of the workforce for the first time in a decade, although – as Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has noted – women's labor force participation was low even pre-pandemic relative to other high-wealth countries. Today, we've erased decades of progress for women, falling to 1980s levels.

Due largely to the caregiving needs of the country defaulting to an unpaid "Plan B" (aka moms) during the pandemic, many did not have any choice but to stay home. Some of those who did so were able to avert serious hardships or financial devastation only because of federal relief programs adopted last year on a bipartisan basis, including extended unemployment, emergency paid leave, and food and housing assistance.

Women's earnings are essential to their households. In 2017, mothers were primary or sole breadwinners in 41 percent of families and co-breadwinners in 23 percent. Women were even more likely to be key breadwinners in families with low incomes and in families of color. Mothers' wages buy food, pay for gas and utilities, and save for the future.

When mothers and fathers have paid leave, they are better able to care for their children in the early weeks and months of life, which produces better health outcomes for children and mothers, as well as higher rates of labor force attachment and higher wages for moms in the year after a child's birth. When men take leave, they take on more caregiving over time, which promotes gender equity at home and at work. When parents have access to high-quality, affordable child care, their ability to work increases, and so does their household income. And higher household income is correlated with numerous measures of better outcomes for children's health, well-being and educational success.

Wishing away a need for public investments in paid leave also ignores personal and family care reasons people need paid leave, from recovering from surgery to caring for an ill or disabled loved one. It also leaves behind small business owners who, like one of us (Marcia), has personally paid out of pocket to help ensure her employees do not go without pay when they are ill. The hardship on employees, and small businesses, is why she supported the paid family and medical leave program for Washington, D.C., and why she, like multitudes of small business owners, supports a national paid leave solution.

It would be a national tragedy if America were to come through the pandemic without enacting comprehensive national policies. It would be even more foolish if the reason we didn't is that some politicians have personal histories or notions that don't reflect the reality of most families in this country today. Their vision of America is not today's America, and for many people, it was not yesterday's either. We must invest in care if we want to build back better.

Vicki Shabo is a senior fellow on Paid Leave Policy and Strategy at New America. Marcia St. Hilaire-Finn is the founder and CEO of Bright Start Early Care & Preschool and a Main Street Alliance Member. Please note, this op-ed previously appeared in USA Today.



Operation Full Pack

We have kicked off a new initiative this week – Operation Full Pack. This initiative is focused on providing much-needed supplies,

including food and non-food items, to military families, both active duty and veterans. Picture a soldier who is leaving on deployment carrying a pack on their back.

The pack contains the necessary supplies for them to be successful in their mission. The real-life circumstances of many soldiers and their families aren't that much different from the general public. Financial struggles are real for many and hard choices rapidly come into play. Providing these supplies to struggling military families, both active duty and veterans can keep them on the path to success in their life mission.

As you know, the National Guard is many times activated to help address local natural disasters, national pandemics, local civil unrest, overseas deployment in military conflicts and other challenging circumstances. They can be thrust into these events at a moment's notice which can also be for an extended time. Living in a low-income circumstance is a tightrope walk for almost half of our population and a soldier's family is not immune to these issues just because they're in the military. A recent survey by Blue Star Families, the Military Family Lifestyle Survey, of military households, found that 14 percent reported experiencing trouble getting enough food during the

preceding year. A self-sufficient culture in the military may also serve as a deterrent to service members seeking assistance to which they are entitled.

Because of that, we expect that the data on the survey could be under-reported of real need. Active soldiers and veterans from all branches are encouraged to participate if assistance is needed. We will be reaching out to as many veteran organizations as we can connect with to move this forward. We are excited to see this initiative move into action after being in development for over eight months.

We were invited to attend the district meeting last week for AMVETS at Post No. 12 in Royerton and another district meeting for the American Legion at Post No. 19 in Muncie. Both organizations' leadership teams expressed enthusiasm and gratitude for our new initiative to provide much-needed supplies to struggling veteran families.

The supplies will be made up of food and non-food items that would be very common in the center of most pantries. We intend to provide about 30 to 40 pounds to each family served. In both meetings, the topic of delivery to home-bound vets came up. Both have an active plan already in place to assist vets with transportation for appointments, so a home-bound component for the home-bound looked like it may be a fairly easy fit for them. The local Muncie American Legion Post No. 19 has an active organization within the legion called Squared Away. This effort is geared around meal preparation with a home delivery option for home-bound vets already in operation. The two women who

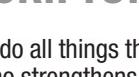
lead this effort saw the possibilities immediately and were ready to engage. We are super excited to get Operation Full Pack underway this month with supplies flowing to as many of the posts as that has given the green light for engagement.

We do intend to connect with all branches of military service, both active duty and veterans, through various affiliated support organizations. We envision delivering resources (food and non-food items) to the organizations or having them picked up at our warehouse. We have already had a few active soldiers and veterans come to our facility to access these needed supplies.

We see this not as a payback for their invaluable service, but as a natural connection to a group of vulnerable families that are flying under the radar of public awareness. Words cannot express our gratitude to all families who serve in any form of military service in this country. We so easily take for granted the amazing work they do to provide and protect the freedoms and choices that we have come to expect.

If you have an interest in more information about Operation Full Pack or how you can support this effort, email director of philanthropy Robby Tompkins at rtompkins@curehunger.org or call 765-287-8698, ext. 119.

Tim Kean is the President and CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana. The Second Harvest Food Bank network of 95-member agencies, programs, 16 Senior sites and 36 schools provide relationship building and food assistance to more than 67,000 low-income people facing daily instability in Blackford, Delaware, Grant, Henry, Jay, Madison, Randolph and Wabash counties.



DAILY SCRIPTURE

I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:13

GRANT

From page A1

this success many people are more aware of the dangers of tobacco use, more people are quitting, and more are not starting," said Gray.

Gray said the WCTFC started in Wabash County in 2001, the smoking rate among adults was over 30 percent. That rate is now at 19 percent.

"The main purpose of the Coalition is to make Wabash County Hoosiers more aware of the health effects of continued tobacco use and how it not only affects those who use tobacco but also those that are exposed to the secondhand smoke, as well as having an impact on our economy because of the rising health costs," said Gray.

Tobacco is the number one cause of preventable disease and death in the United States, responsible for approximately 20 percent of all deaths.

"We are often tempted to minimize the effects of tobacco and smoking because it is legal for adults to purchase and use. However, tobacco use is the only product sold, that when used as directed, causes disease-

es and death," said Gray. "(We) will remain focused on improving the health of Wabash County through the education programs regarding the dangers of tobacco and secondhand smoke, will provide cessation for those that are ready to quit ... and continue to go into the schools with prevention programs for the youth."

Gray said there will also be a continued effort to help Wabash County improve the quality of air everyone breathes.

"Even though there is a "no smoking" state law for most public places, it does not go far enough to protect everyone. Clean air for all Hoosiers should be a priority for healthy living," said Gray.

In September 2018, new tobacco restrictions took effect here in North Manchester, banning tobacco use in private bars, clubs and within 15 feet of main entrances to public facilities after the North Manchester Town Council adopted the measure in August 2018.

Gray said the city of Wabash and Wabash County has no public smoking ordinance in place, but that he would be continuing to work on this issue during the next two years.

"I do plan to talk to the mayor

soon to see if this is something we can pick up again. I want to talk to the commissioners to see if we can make a county ordinance," said Gray.

Gray said there is a concentrated concern for the women in Wabash County that smoke while pregnant, where 17 percent of the pregnant women smoke. That is down from 25 percent since the program started.

"When a pregnant woman smokes while she is pregnant or is exposed to secondhand smoke, the baby in the womb is affected by the smoke and nicotine that enters the womb. When the smoke is inhaled into the lungs, it goes into the womb and the baby smokes with the mother. The baby is then susceptible to tobacco-related diseases and nicotine addiction," said Gray.

The Baby & Me Tobacco Free program is funded through Parkview Wabash Hospital and the Community Foundation of Wabash County.

"This program provides counseling support and resources to pregnant women to help them quit and remain (tobacco-free) after the birth of the baby," said Gray. "This will result in improved birth and long-term pos-

itive outcomes for women, children, and the families."

Gray said those that quit will receive \$25 diaper vouchers up to a year past the birth of the baby.

"This program is an evidence-based, smoking treatment procedure, created to reduce the burden of tobacco," said Gray.

Gray said the Youth Tobacco Prevention Program goes into all second and fifth grade classrooms and to the middle and high school health classes in all three school districts.

Gray said this is made possible through Wabash County United Fund, Wabash Parkview Hospital, Community Foundation of Wabash County, and Living Essentials funding.

"The coalition can provide any information on the dangers of tobacco, e-cigarettes, and secondhand smoke with resources or engage an audience with speaking appointments to organizations that are interested to hear more," said Gray.

For more information, call 800-QUIT-NOW, call 260-274-2920, visit 41 W. Canal St. or visit wabashcotobaccofree.net.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

BILLBOARDS

From page A1

these two billboards are one of the first visual interactions travelers experience," said Millspaugh.

Millspaugh said there is an influx of vehicular traffic during the summer months due to lake traffic.

"Translating the amenities of Wabash into a creative display is really fun for me," said Visit Wabash County creative lead Katie Jones. "You have four seconds to impact vehicular traffic when they pass a billboard, so I knew the graphics needed to translate well and create a sense of place."

Present for the dedication were Mayor Scott Long and members from Wabash City Council and Visit Wabash County Board of Directors and staff.

"A piece of our marketing scope of work includes a call to action to vehicular traffic to engage with the Wabash community," said Millspaugh. "We understand that our relationship with a visitor starts the moment they enter our community. Therefore, gateway signage is critical. It's one of the first impressions."

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

PULSE

From page A1

and their adults are invited to Salamonie Preschool's "D is for Decomposition." Children ages 2 to 5 and their adults are welcome to attend the class from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 14 at Salamonie Interpretive Center located in Lost Bridge West State Recreation Area, 3691 S. New Holland Road, Andrews. The program fee is \$2 per child. Advance registration is appreciated. Register by calling Upper Wabash Interpretive Services at 260-468-2127. For more information, visit facebook.com/upperwabash.

Second Harvest to hold tailgate food distributions

Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana has planned tailgate food distributions for 11 a.m. Wednesdays, July 28 at Bachelor Creek Church of Christ, 2147 Indiana 15; and noon Wednesday, July 14 at the Manchester Church of the Brethren, 1306 Beckley St., North Manchester. For more information, visit www.curehunger.org, classy.org/campaign/hunger-action-month/c299182 or <https://www.givepulse.com/group/203410>.

Somerset Lions Club plans a euchre event

Somerset Lions Club has planned a euchre event for Saturday, July 24 at the Somerset Community Building, 21 W. Old Slocum Trail, Somerset. The entry fee will be \$10. Registration will be from noon to 12:45 p.m. Play begins at 1 p.m. Cash prizes will be awarded for most loners, highest score and second-highest score. There will also be cash prizes for 50-50 drawings, with two drawings for the entry fee. Food including soft drinks, hot dogs, cookies and chips will be available for a donation. Proceeds will promote Somerset Lions projects.

Salamonie Lake workdays continue throughout summer

Salamonie Lake's Upper Wabash Interpretive Services, 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews, will host volunteer workdays at 9 a.m. Monday, July 26; 9 a.m. Monday, Aug. 16; and 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 25. For more information, visit 260-468-2127.

MSD Summer Food Program to provide free breakfasts, lunches

The MSD Summer Food Program will provide weekly meals free of charge for children ages 1 through 18 throughout the MSD area. Throughout the summer, families may pick up five day's worth of breakfasts and lunches for each child in their household that meets the age criteria from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays through July 28 at Northfield High School, 154 W. 200 North, and Southwood High

School on the east side of the building, 564 Indiana 124.

Summer at the Wabash County Museum continues

For preschool families with children ages 0 to 5, "Bear Den Days" will be held from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and 1:30 to 3 p.m. every Wednesday at 36 E. Market St. Sessions will begin with a weekly theme-based story and activity before moving into the Bear Den for an hour of playtime with friends. Registration is recommended due to limited capacity. Admission will be free to those who register in advance. Registration is available at www.wabashmuseum.org/events. Through Friday, July 30, the Wabash County Museum will offer the "Museum Explorers" opportunity for young people who have just completed kindergarten through sixth grades. Youth can visit the Wabash County Museum from Tuesdays through Fridays all summer long to participate in a scavenger hunt where they will find clues in the Wabash County Museum's various exhibits to win prizes. A different scavenger hunt may be completed each week for the chance to enter an end-of-summer drawing to win one of several large prizes. Accompanying adults will be subject to the standard admission price unless they have a current museum membership. For more information, visit www.wabashmuseum.org.

INDOT begins maintenance work on Indiana 13 bridge over Mississinewa

INDOT announced bridge maintenance work would soon begin on Indiana 13 over the Mississinewa River. Crews will be conducting the bridgework seven miles south of Wabash between Whites Drive and Howell Road. The work is expected to last until mid-August. During construction, Indiana 13 will be reduced to one lane. Traffic should be prepared to stop and obey the temporary traffic signal. There's a width limit of 12 feet in the project zone.

YMCA offers summer meals

The Wabash County YMCA announced their free breakfast and lunch program for children ages 18 and under will be from 8 to 9 a.m. for breakfast and 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for lunch Mondays through Fridays, through Friday, Aug. 6, at 500 S. Cass St. For more information, visit www.wabashcountymca.org or email info@wabashcountymca.org.

'Liking for Biking' returns

Through Saturday, Aug. 28, anyone of any age or skill level who is interested in a free, family-friendly hour-long bike ride is invited to meet at 8:45 a.m. each Saturday at Paradise Spring Historical Park's upper pavilion, 351 W. Market St. Helmets are required. The next health assessment will take place at 8 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 28 inside of door 10 at Parkview Wabash Hospital, 10 John Kissinger Drive, while the rest of the rides will start at Paradise Spring Historical Park with wheels rolling at 9 a.m. Masks are required inside Parkview Wabash Hospital for health assessments. For more information, visit www.visitwabashcounty.com/adventure-series or call 260-563-7171.

Dr. Ford Home announces 'fun, family-friendly' event lineup

Honeywell Arts & Entertainment welcomes guests of all ages to Dr. James Ford Historic Home, 177 W. Hill St,

for a full schedule of fun, family-friendly events in 2021, including The American Front Porch at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 14; Autumn Festival from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 1; Trick or Treat at the Home during the city of Wabash's trick-or-treat hours; and Wabash and Erie Canal history program with Jeff Koehler at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 23. For more information, visit HoneywellArts.org/dr-ford-home.

Manchester Civic Band plans live performances

Manchester Civic Band performances at Peabody Retirement Community have been scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 22 and Dec. 1. This year's Timbercrest Retirement Community performances have been scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 29 and Dec. 8. They have tentatively scheduled performances for Saturday, Oct. 2 for a concert at Harvest Fest. In addition, performances have also been tentatively scheduled for the North Manchester Fun Fest parade and at Doud's Orchard Open House in Denver, Indiana.

Downtown Wabash Farmers' Market running every Saturday

The Downtown Wabash Farmers' Market continues its 2021 season from 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays through Saturday, Sept. 26 in the Honeywell Center/Wabash Elks parking lot on the corner of Cass and Market St. Vendors are still being accepted for full-season, half-season and one-time rates. To become a vendor for the 2021 Market, visit WabashMarketplace.org/farmers-market or call 260-563-0975. For more information about Downtown Wabash Farmers' Market, visit WabashMarketplace.org/farmers-market.

8th annual Car and Bike Show Bike Ride for Riley Kids planned

The Clown Town Motorcycles and Sharp Shooters Express will present the 8th annual Car and Bike Show Bike Ride for Riley Kids on Saturday, Oct. 2 at the American Legion Post No. 248, 800 Washington St., Lagro. Car show registration will be \$15 per car and will begin at 11 a.m., with kickstands up and entertainment starting at noon. For more information, call 260-466-7655.

Salamonie 'Tweens Among the Trees' Forest School planned

Children ages 6 to 13 are invited to Salamonie Forest Preschool from November 2021 through April 2022 at 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews. The class will be offered one Wednesday a month from 9 a.m. to noon at Salamonie Interpretive Center in Lost Bridge West State Recreation Area, Andrews. Classes will be held on Wednesdays: Nov. 3, 2021; Dec. 8, 2021; Jan. 5, 2022; Feb. 2, 2022; March 2, 2020; and April 20, 2022.

Honeywell Ladies Golf Association season continues

The Tuesday Honeywell Ladies Golf Association (LGA) will begin their season with a 9 a.m. shotgun Tuesdays, according to Linda Garber. The yearly dues of \$15 will be taken then. New members are welcome. Arrive at 8:30 a.m. All Tuesday events are scrambles. Register in the clubhouse by noon Monday.

Honeywell Pool to open on a limited basis

For the time being, the Mark C. Honeywell Pool will be open Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays each week. For more information, visit www.wabashcountyymca.org.

'Explore Salamonie' hikes to be held monthly

Join Upper Wabash Interpretive Services for an "Explore Salamonie" hike at 5 p.m. during each month's first Saturday through September at Salamonie's Interpretive and Nature Center at 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews. Wear appropriate footwear, clothing and bring along your water bottle, sunscreen and bug spray. A set of binoculars or cameras may come in handy. Each hike is open to the public and geared for families. Each hike will last approximately 45 minutes to an hour. Registration is requested by calling 260-468-2127. Property entrance fees of \$7 per in-state vehicle and \$9 per out-of-state vehicle apply. State Park Annual Entrance Passes are available for purchase.

DivorceCare meets Tuesdays

DivorceCare, a 13-week DVD series sponsored by Wabash Friends Counseling Center, features some of the nation's foremost Christian experts on topics concerning divorce and recovery, according to group leader Janet Quillen. The support group meets at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday in the Conference Room in the Wabash Friends Counseling Center, 3563 South State Road 13. Wearing a mask is required when entering. Quillen and members of the group meet for dinner at 5:30 p.m. at Subway, 1812 S. Wabash St., on State Road 15. For more information, call 260-563-8453, 877-350-1658, email office@wabashfriends.org, call 260-571-5235 or visit www.divorcecare.org.

Editor's note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplaindealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.

Sierra Hall continues cross country career at Grace

WHS standout to major in education, with focus on mathematics, special ed

By CLAY MAXFIELD

Wabash Plain Dealer Freelance Reporter

After four successful years running with Wabash High School, Sierra Hall has signed to run collegiately with Grace College while majoring in education with a focus on mathematics and special education.

Regional qualifier, Sierra Hall reflected on why the allure of Grace College was too good of an offer to pass up while being able to continue her running career along with getting her undergraduate degree.

"It felt like it was a place I belonged," Hall said. "It was a very similar atmosphere to what I was used to at Wabash. ... I've been a part of Wabash's running program since fourth grade and it was really cool to just be together as a family with the track and cross-country team."

"Financially, I got the most scholarships from Grace and running just made it even better. They have an awesome education program and an opportunity to get your master's degree within your four years and with what I want to do career-wise, it just worked out."



Provided photo

After four successful years running with Wabash High School, Sierra Hall has signed to run collegiately with Grace College while majoring in education, with a focus on mathematics and special education.

During her time at Grace College, Hall will also obtain her master's degree in higher education.

Hall's time as an Apache was a decorated one, finishing in the top half of conference runners while also placing as the seventh individ-

ual qualifier in sectionals before running a personal best of 23:50 in regionals.

In terms of what the Apaches will miss with Hall's graduation, Wabash head coach Katelin Lloyd credited her ascent into a leader

throughout her four years of running.

"By her senior year, she was filling the leadership role," Lloyd said. "She helped make the program be what it is. ... She made the program so fun and helped make it

fun for not just the high schoolers but the middle schoolers. Because of her, being there and her leadership, she's going to be the reason why we have more kids come out and enjoy cross country."

Throughout her time running for Wabash, Hall believes that the internal growth she had as a runner was the most important aspect of her high school athletic career.

"Coach Lloyd really focused on how to grow as a person," Hall said. "I'm not going to go out and win every race, but it allowed me to grow as a person and have the right mindset for running. Knowing that you don't have to win races to be a successful runner. Going into college, I know I won't be faster than everyone else, but I know how to work hard because she taught me how to work hard."

Off the track, Hall was awarded an All-Conference Honorable Mention for Academics, ranking in the top 30 percent of her class with a 3.4 GPA or higher.

"I think Grace is getting an enthusiastic athlete who genuinely wants to do her best. They're going to get someone who's going to put their heart out there for running and get someone that they can mold into the runner that they need for their team," Lloyd said.

Clay Maxfield, Wabash Plain Dealer freelance reporter, may be reached by email at sports@wabashplaindealer.com.

THE 149TH OPEN AT ROYAL ST. GEORGE'S

RETURN TO TRADITION

As tradition goes at the British Open, it all feels the same. Shane Lowry, a popular winner at Royal Portrush, returns the silver claret jug upon his arrival at Royal St. George's for a ceremonial start to the 149th edition of golf's oldest championship. It's like clockwork, with one exception.

The British Open is one year behind.

Strange as it was for the Masters to be played amid autumn hues of November and the U.S. Open to be held in September for the first time in nearly a century, the biggest fallout in golf from the COVID-19 pandemic was the British Open not being played at all last year.

Now it's back, though not quite to normal.

The R&A is allowing 32,000 spectators a day at Royal St. George's, located along the eastern English coast near the Strait of Dover. Major championship golf hasn't seen a crowd that large since Portrush two summers ago.

The players, meanwhile, will be confined to a strict bubble of no more than four people from their own support team. They are to avoid mixing with the general public, except for the 32,000 fans behind the ropes on the golf course. That means Justin Thomas can't share a house with Jordan Spieth, as they often do. And no trips to restaurants or the grocery store, much less a pub.

"I feel like a lot of the family restrictions, each player's team restrictions, it's a little too much," U.S. Open champion Jon Rahm said. "But I understand why they want us to stay at home and why they want to keep the players as safe as possible. ... It's the rules they put up, and we just have to deal with it and follow them."

It's a big change from players on the PGA Tour, where testing is no longer required for vaccinated players and restrictions have been loosened considerably.

The cancellation allowed Lowry to keep the claret jug for two years, the longest of any British Open champion since 1939 winner Richard Burton held it for seven years because of World War II. He said it traveled well, poured well and even picked up a few dings he had repaired.

Now it's up for grabs on a links with a reputation of being the quirkiest of all, with so many humps and hollows along the fairways that Royal St. George's is often described as having a lunar landscape. "The world championship of imagination," Greg Norman called it when he won in 1993.

No matter how many restrictions are in place for the players, someone will

be holding the claret jug on Sunday. It probably will be presented to him by someone wearing gloves.

THE COURSE

Royal St. George's was the first course in England to host the British Open in 1894. This will be the 15th time it has the Open, fourth on the list behind St. Andrews (29), Prestwick (24) and Muirfield (16). It is famous for terrain so lumpy that Justin Rose once referred to it as "almost playing on the surface of the moon." Tee shots down the middle can bounce to the left or the right on several holes. "You just pack your patience and understand that it's the same for everyone, and the good and the bad bounces should all level out over 72 holes," Rory McIlroy said.

GLOBAL GAME

Hideki Matsuyama of Japan won the Masters. Phil Mickelson of the United States won the PGA Championship. Jon Rahm of Spain won the U.S. Open. That's three majors won by players from three continents. Dating to the creation of the Masters in 1934, there has never been a year when the four major champions came from four continents. Maybe it's worth paying attention to someone like Marc Leishman (Australia), Joaquin Niemann (Chile) or Louis Oosthuizen (South Africa).

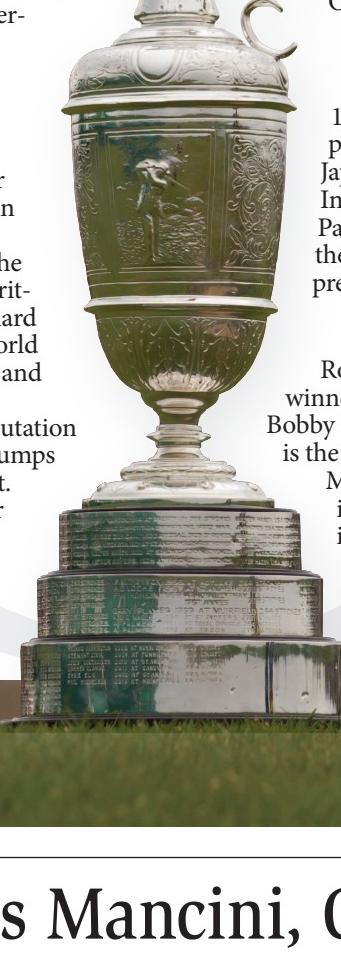
OLYMPIC IMPACT

Men's golf in the Tokyo Olympics starts 11 days after the British Open ends, and 29 players at Royal St. George's will be headed to Japan. The list was a little longer until Sungjae Im and Si Woo Kim of South Korea, and Juvic Pagunsan of The Philippines, withdrew from the British Open so as not to detract from their preparations for the Olympics.

SILVER MEDALS

Royal St. George's has produced world-class winners from Harry Vardon and Walter Hagen to Bobby Locke and Greg Norman. Equally impressive is the recent list of players who finished second.

Mickelson and Dustin Johnson tied for second in 2011, while Vijay Singh was a runner-up in 2003. Other runner-up finishes at Royal St. George's belong to Nick Faldo (1993), Payne Stewart (1985) and Bernhard Langer (1981). All are in the World Golf Hall of Fame.



THE OPEN FACT & FIGURES

Event: 149th Open Championship

Dates: July 15-18

Site: Royal St. George's

Length: 7,189

Par: 70

The course: Royal St. George's is located in southeast England about 15 miles from the Strait of Dover. It was founded in 1887 by William Laidlaw Purves, and it was the first links in England to host the British Open. This will be the 15th time it has held the British Open.

Field: 156 players

Playoff (if necessary): 3 holes, aggregate score

Prize money: \$11.5 million

Winner's share: \$2,070,000

Defending champion: Shane Lowry

Last year: The British Open was canceled for the first time since World War II because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Last time: Shane Lowry of Ireland captured his first major at Royal Portrush in the first British Open in Northern Ireland in 68 years. He closed with a 1-over 72 for a six-shot victory over Tommy Fleetwood. The final round featured such rough weather that no one from the last 12 groups broke par.

Last time at Royal St. George's: Darren Clarke, who had gone 10 years without even contending in the majors, closed with an even-par 70 for a three-shot victory over Phil Mickelson and Dustin Johnson.

British Open champions at Royal St. George's: J.H. Taylor (1894), Harry Vardon (1899, 1911), Jack White (1904), Walter Hagen (1922, 1928), Henry Cotton (1934), Reg Whitcombe (1938), Bobby Locke (1949), Bill Rogers (1981), Sandy Lyle (1985), Greg Norman (1993), Ben Curtis (2003), Darren Clarke (2011).

COVID-19 restrictions: The R&A is limiting players to a "buddy bubble" of no more than four people and they cannot share houses with other players or mix with the general public. The R&A also is allowing 32,000 fans a day, the most of any major.

Olympic conflict: Sungjae Im and Si Woo Kim of South Korea and Juvic Pagunsan of The Philippines have withdrawn to concentrate on the Tokyo Olympics, which start 11 days after the British Open ends.

Key statistic: Bryson DeChambeau is the only player from the top 10 in the world who has yet to finish in the top 20 at a major this year.

Noteworthy: Major champions this year have come from Asia (Hideki Matsuyama), North America (Phil Mickelson) and Europe (Jon Rahm). Dating to the creation of the Masters in 1934, the four majors have never been won by players from four continents in the same year.

Television (all times EDT): Thursday-Friday, 1:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Golf Channel); Saturday, 5 a.m. to 7 a.m. (Golf Channel), 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. (NBC); Sunday, 2:30 a.m. to 6 a.m. (Golf Channel), 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. (NBC).

"Look, it's one week. It's a major championship and let's just do what it takes to be able to compete."

— Phil Mickelson, on the COVID-19 protocols in place for players at Royal St. George's.

Mets' Alonso bests Mancini, Ohtani for 2nd straight HR Derby title

DENVER (AP) — Pete Alonso's words were as bold as his home runs.

"I'm the best power hitter on the planet," the New York Mets first baseman proclaimed after winning his second straight Home Run Derby. "Being able to showcase that and put on a fun display on for the fans is truly a dream come true for me."

Alonso danced to the title, besting Shohei Ohtani, Trey Mancini and Juan Soto on a night of record long balls in the thin Rocky Mountain air of Coors Field.

He hit 74 total home runs and beat Mancini 23-22 in the final round Monday, joining Ken Griffey Jr. (1998-99) and Yoenis Céspedes (2013-14) in winning consecutive titles.

Alonso earned \$1 million — more than his \$676,775 salary. He's made \$2 million in Home Run Derby winnings compared to about \$1.47 million in career salary from the Mets through the end of this season.

"My parents let me stay up past my bedtime to watch this," the 26-year-old recalled.

"That was one of the few nights

of the year I got to stay up past my bedtime and watch. Watch incredible feats you don't see in a regular baseball game. To be able to do back to back is really special to me."

He has a chance to match Griffey, who also won in 1994, as the only three-time champion.

Soto thrilled the crowd of

the longest derby drive in the Statcast era, topping 513 feet the New York Yankees' Aaron Judge in 2017 at Miami. Before Statcast, the Chicago Cubs' Sammy Sosa was said to have hit one 524 feet at Milwaukee in 2002, clearing Bernie Brewer's slide.

Mark McGwire had the longest ball in the 1998 Derby at mile-high Coors, a 510-footer.

Biden blasts 'un-American' voting limits; Texas Dems act

By JONATHAN LEMIRE,
BRIAN SLODKO
and ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — President Joe Biden declared preserving voting rights an urgent national "test of our time" on Tuesday but offered few concrete proposals to meet it. Texas Democrats took their own dramatic action to stymie Republican efforts to tighten ballot restrictions in their state.

Biden, who has proclaimed protecting ballot access the central cause of his presidency, has faced sharp criticism from allies for not doing more, though political headwinds and stubborn Senate math have limited his ability to act. Despite his ringing words on Tuesday, he avoided any mention of trying to alter the Senate filibuster rule that stands in the path of federal legislation.

Speaking at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, Biden called state efforts to curtail voting accessibility "un-American" and "un-democratic" and launched a broadside against his predecessor, Donald Trump, who baselessly alleged misconduct in the 2020 election after his defeat. Biden called passage of congressional proposals to override new state voting restrictions and to restore parts of the Voting Rights Act that were curbed in recent years by the Supreme Court "a national imperative."

Yet, instead of raising the possibility of fighting the filibuster, he appeared to tacitly acknowledge the fading hopes for the bills, saying he would launch a nationwide campaign to arm voters with information on rule changes and restrictions ahead of the 2022 midterm elections.

"We have to prepare now," the president said.

Biden's sharp rhetoric drew praise from progressive groups in his party but did little

to assuage the mounting pressure on him to throw his weight behind replacing the filibuster. "The president believes that we have to make the filibuster work the way it used to," said White House deputy press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre, who added Biden has not changed his opposition to eliminating it altogether.

Biden's remarks came a day after Texas Democrats decamped for Washington in an effort to deny their GOP-controlled Legislature the necessary quorum to pass a bill placing new restrictions on voting in the state.

The lawmakers, who arrived in the nation's capital Monday night, said they were prepared to stay in Washington — out of the reach of Texas law enforcement — until a special legislative session concludes early next month. Their action marks a dramatic new showdown over voting in America.

Standing near the steps of the U.S. Capitol for a news conference ahead of a meeting with Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, the Democrats promised to "stay out and kill this bill."

However, state Rep. Chris Turner, the leader of the Texas Legislature's House Democrats, said their efforts would ultimately be futile unless congressional Democrats take bolder action to overcome a Senate Republican blockade of the sweeping federal voting bill. The legislation, known as the For the People Act, would create national standards for voting that could roll back some of the restrictions that have been approved or are advancing in Republican-led states, including Texas.

"We can't hold this tide back forever. We're buying some time. We need Congress and all of our federal leaders to use that time wisely," Turner said.

Several states have enacted new voting restrictions, and

others are debating them, as the GOP has seized on Trump's false claim of massive voter fraud in the 2020 election as a rationale for curtailing ballot access.

"No other election has ever been held under such scrutiny, such high standards," Biden said of the 2020 race.

Some GOP-led states have worked to roll back the vote-by-mail expansion that was put in place in the past presidential election due to COVID-19 fears. Others have tried to strengthen voter identification requirements and curtail hours and locations for early voting and ballot drop-offs.

Texas Republican Gov. Greg Abbott said he would keep calling special sessions through next year if necessary to pass his state's legislation, and raised the possibility of Democrats facing arrest upon returning home.

Asked whether Biden thinks the Texas legislators are doing the right thing by leaving the state, Jean-Pierre said "he applauds their courage." She said that in the administration's view, the Texas bill is an "assault on democracy."

Vice President Kamala Harris, who is leading the administration's efforts on voting rights, praised the Texas legislators during a meeting with them in Washington.

"Defending the right of the American people to vote is as American as apple pie," she told the lawmakers, comparing their actions to women's suffrage and civil rights marches.

Democrats on Capitol Hill have tried to respond with a sweeping federal voting and elections bill that Senate Republicans have united to block. Most Republicans have similarly dismissed a separate bill, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, which would restore sections of the Voting Rights Act that the Supreme Court has weakened.

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But Republicans and conservative groups sense a favorable political environment for advancing their agenda.

Democrats eye immigration action in budget, but outlook hazy

By ALAN FRAM
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congressional Democrats and immigration advocates are staring at their best chance in years to overcome Republican opposition and give millions of people in the U.S. without legal authorization a way to become citizens.

Their goal is to stuff the language into a huge measure this fall financing many of President Joe Biden's priorities that would be shielded from a Republican Senate filibuster. That bill-killing procedure requires a virtually impossible 60 votes to overcome, but erasing that danger with a Democrat in the White House means they could score an immigration triumph by themselves after years of Republican blockades.

"This is the chance to finally get it done," said Kerri Talbot, deputy director of the Immigration Hub, a pro-immigration strategy group. Yet Democrats' prospects, while tantalizing, remain murky because of two major hurdles.

Democrats in the narrowly divided Congress will need virtual unanimity to approve the sweeping legislation, which could include Biden's proposed tax boosts on the wealthy and other proposals likely to cause political heartburn. On immigration alone, the party will need solid support from vulnerable swing-district Democrats and moderates, whom Republicans are certain to accuse of favoring amnesty and open borders in next year's elections for congressional control.

Immigration advocates point to polls showing public support for opening the citizenship doorway and studies showing immigration spurs economic growth.

But Republicans and conservative groups sense a favorable political environment for advancing their agenda.

In an early budget draft, Sanders proposed creating

ment for themselves. They cite large numbers of migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border recently and growing public concern with crime, which the GOP often links to immigration.

"It would be a harder fight for our side if the administration were actually controlling the border," said Rosemary Jenks, government relations director for NumbersUSA, which favors limiting immigration. "It doesn't seem like a great way to go into the midterms" for Democrats.

Yet perhaps Democrats' biggest hurdle is the Senate parliamentarian, Elizabeth MacDonough, who determines whether legislative language follows the chamber's rules. MacDonough, 55, is a respected impartial arbiter, but Democrats haven't forgotten that she ruled against including another coveted progressive priority, a minimum wage increase, in their COVID-19 relief package months ago, essentially dooming the provision.

In a crucial first step in this process, Congress must approve a budget resolution. Senate Budget Committee Chairman Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., has been trying to win Democratic support for one he hopes to unveil soon.

The budget will be pivotal in two ways. First, it will contain language preventing Republicans from filibustering the subsequent bill funding Biden's priorities. By law, the budget resolution itself cannot be filibustered.

Second, the budget will set overall spending and revenue limits for that forthcoming spending bill, expected to be several trillion dollars. It will also assign congressional committees specific amounts to spend or raise in revenue as they write language bolstering climate, family support and other priorities.

In an early budget draft, Sanders proposed creating

multiyear pathways to legal permanent residency, and potentially citizenship, for four groups of immigrants without legal status. These are people brought illegally to the U.S. as children, called "Dreamers"; others who fled violence or disasters in certain countries; essential workers and farmworkers.

Sanders said in a brief interview late Monday that his budget will include the immigration language "if I have anything to say about it."

Because some immigrants fit into multiple groups, it's hard to say exactly how many people Sanders' proposal would help. The liberal Center for American Progress estimates it would affect 6 million people — barely over half the 11 million immigrants in the U.S. illegally whom Biden wants to assist, but still huge.

"In the whole scheme of immigration reform, it does not go far enough," Rep. Raul Ruiz, D-Calif., chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, said of Sanders' plan. "But we are strategically tailoring the groups that would most likely fit into a budgetary framework" so it would survive the parliamentarian's perusal.

Under Senate rules, provisions in a bill immune from filibusters must affect spending or revenue in a way that isn't "merely incidental" to that provision's overall policy. That call will be up to MacDonough, the parliamentarian, to make.

Democrats are pinning their hopes on a 2005 ruling by an earlier Senate parliamentarian that gave the green light to a narrower immigration proposal, though that provision never cleared Congress.

Sanders' early budget proposal also called for \$126 billion for processing immigrants for legal status, and \$24 billion to strengthen border security.

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